Acting United States Attorney Michael W. Reap Eastern District of Missouri

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TROY, MO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

St. Louis, MO: Donald M. Hutchings pleaded guilty to possession and production of child pornography, Acting United States Attorney Michael W. Reap announced today.

Hutchings, 56, Troy, MO, pleaded guilty to one felony count of production of child pornography and two felony counts of possession of child pornography. He appeared this morning before United States District Judge Carol E. Jackson, in St. Louis. Sentencing has been set for August 4, 2009.

Production of child pornography carries a penalty range of ten to 20 years in prison, each count of possession of child pornography carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, followed by supervised release for life.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Reap commended the work on the case by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, the Regional Computer Crimes Education and Enforcement Group , the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Assistant United States Attorney Rob Livergood, who is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.